



MONROE THIS WEEK

November 8, 2019 806 W. Main Street, Monroe WA, 98272 Vol 5/Edition 40
Phone - 360-794-7400



GREETINGS FROM MAYOR THOMAS

Hello! Thank you for reading Monroe This Week. Learn what is happening and has happened during the week. If you have any suggestions, questions, or comments for "Monroe This Week" or the articles included, please do not hesitate to contact me.

I can be reached at gthomas@monroewa.gov Thank you!

Yours in Service,

Mayor Geoffrey Thomas



MAYOR HAPPENINGS

New Funding for Housing

The City has limited funding sources to support affordable housing and provide rental assistance. Earlier this year, the state legislature passed Substitute House Bill 1406 to share state sales tax revenues with cities and counties. The funds can be used to support local needs for affordable housing and rental assistance to tenants that are at or below sixty percent of the median income. This is a revenue-sharing program, not a new tax. The City of Monroe is eligible to receive approximately \$45,000 annually. The program will sunset after twenty years.

In order to be eligible for funding, the new law requires the Monroe City Council to first pass a "Resolution of Intent" by January 27, 2020; which the Council adopted on September 24, 2019. Then, the Council must adopt an ordinance by July 27, 2020, to collect the shared sales tax revenues. The Council will consider first reading of an ordinance to collect the shared tax at its November 12, 2019, meeting; with potential adoption to follow in December. If the ordinance is adopted, the City will begin receiving shared sales tax revenues in March 2020. The City Council will consider recommendations in January and February 2020 on how to use the funds. For more information click [here](#).

Wreath Laying at the Lake Tye Park Veterans' Memorial – Monday, November 11th

Please join me on Monday, November 11, 2019, at Lake Tye Park for a wreath laying at the Veterans' Memorial Monument. I will be there at 7:30 am. All are welcome!

You can view the proclamation for Veterans Day [here](#).

Mayor

Geoffrey Thomas

gthomas@monroewa.gov

Councilmembers

Kevin Hanford, Mayor Pro Tem

Patsy Cudaback

Ed Davis

Jason Gamble

Jim Kamp

Jeff Rasmussen

Kirk Scarboro

councilmembers@monroewa.gov

EVENT HAPPENINGS

11/09	Milkwood Ribbon Cutting; 12pm; 113 W Main Street
11/11	Planning Commission Meeting; 7pm; City Hall, Council Chambers
11/11- 11/16	Monroe Police & Fire Appreciation Week
11/12	City Council Legislative Affairs Committee Meeting; 6pm; City Hall, Passport Area City Council Regular Business Meeting; 7pm; City Hall, Council Chambers
11/16	Pancake Breakfast; 8am; Monroe Community Senior Center

Job Openings

- On Call Plans Examiner
 - Lateral Police Officer
- www.monroewa.gov/jobs

CITY OF MONROE YEAR-TO-DATE COMPARISONS

Sales Tax Revenues

'18 to 09/30/18: \$4,322,021

'19 to 09/30/19: \$4,521,667

UP \$199,646 or 4.6%

Real Estate Excise Tax

'18 to 09/30/18: \$1,122,470

'19 to 09/30/19: \$1,084,983

DOWN \$37,487 or -3.33%

Lodging Tax Revenues

'18 to 09/30/18: \$71,619

'19 to 09/30/19: \$74,792

UP \$3,173 or 4.43%

Business License Fees

'18 to 09/30/18: \$42,130

'19 to 09/30/19: \$56,380

UP \$14,250 or 33.82%

Building Permit Revenues

'18 to 09/30/18: \$591,839

'19 to 09/30/19: \$509,118

DOWN \$82,721 or -13.97%

Planning Fee Revenues

'18 to 09/30/18: \$33,460

'19 to 09/30/19: \$51,056

UP \$17,596 or 52.58%

SFR Permits YTD

2018 to 8/2018: 109

2019 to 8/2019: 92

Multi-Family Permits (# units)

2018 to 8/2018: 0

2019 to 8/2019: 186

CITY HAPPENINGS

Downtown Trick or Treat

It finally arrived - October 31st, Halloween, and the merchants in Downtown Monroe were ready! Hundreds of princesses, goblins, witches, ghosts, pirates, mermaids, and wizards arrived by wagon, tricycle, bicycle, strollers, and foot. These costume-wearing children had one goal in mind: collecting unfathomable amounts of treats, candy, and chocolate. The merchants didn't disappoint!

Each merchant's treat reflected their own shop's personality and story. For example, the Monroe Museum handed out tootsie rolls, the oldest candy sold. Main Street Bookstore handed out candy along with a book. Monroe Florist set up a photo booth for families to take a picture and take home a memory. Maebe's handed trickier treaters freshly popped popcorn.

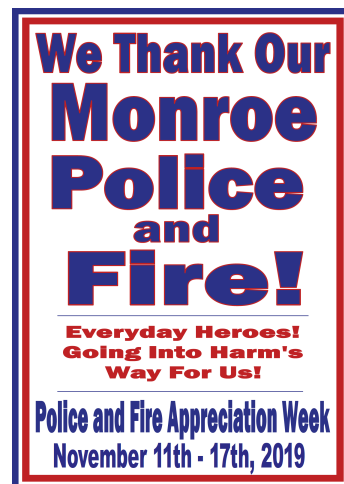
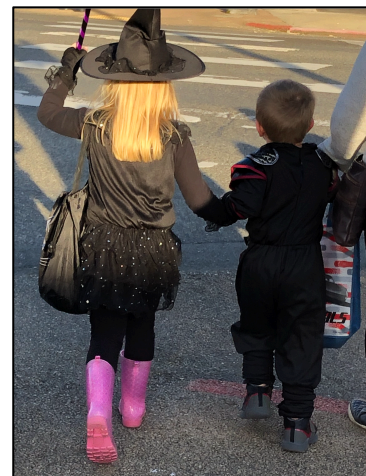
I'd like to thank the Downtown Monroe Association for hosting the event and also the Downtown Monroe Merchants, Pharm-A-Save, Evergreen Health Foundation, and Yoforit Frozen Yogurt. These local businesses contributed to a memorable evening in downtown Monroe.

Monroe Police and Fire Appreciation Week - November 11, through November 16, 2019

This special week is set aside by our communities to show appreciation to the first responders who serve us every day. Monroe Police and Snohomish County Fire District No. 7 Fire representatives will be visiting schools to interact with kids and receive gestures of appreciation from the various classes. Many Monroe businesses will display their support by posting "Thank You" posters and messages on their reader boards. We, as a City, are grateful for the exceptional quality of public service provided by our police officers, firefighters, corrections officers, and other law enforcement agencies as they continue to dedicate themselves to keeping our citizens and community safe.

Blueberry Lane and North Kelsey Street Intersection Improvements

The North Kelsey Street and Blueberry Lane intersection project is nearing completion, and we thank you for your patience during the construction. The new lane striping and pavement markers are in place; and BNSF Railroad has modified the crossing arm to match the new lane configuration. The remaining work is installation of a centerline barrier (concrete curb with tubular delineators). Temporary construction barriers are in place until the curb construction can be scheduled.



Updated Gateway/Wayfinding Sign Plan and Designs Coming Soon

As part of the 2019 City Budget, and included as a recommendation in the 2020 City Budget, money is allocated to develop a comprehensive Gateway and Wayfinding Sign Program/Plan to include design specifications for fabrication and installation. This plan will incorporate national sign design guidelines and best practices regarding locations and quantity of signs to use to help our residents and visitors navigate our City easily. The City's Economic Development Advisory Board (EDAB) was tasked with reviewing requests for proposals to provide this work.

After reviewing seven proposals, the EDAB interviewed three firms on October 24, 2019: Beckwith, Northwest Sign & Design, and Tangram Design. Tangram Design is the EDAB's recommendation to the Council for this work.

The contract with Tangram Design is being presented to the City Council on Tuesday, November 12, 2019, for their consideration. If approved, Tangram will begin working with the EDAB immediately. Thank you to the members of the Economic Development Advisory Board for your time in developing a recommendation to the City Council.

Milkwood Ribbon Cutting – Saturday, November 9, 2019, 12 p.m.

Join me this Saturday at 12 p.m. for the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony of Milkwood, our newest business addition to downtown Monroe. This new shop will be selling apparel, home goods, and locally-sourced items. Come down to 113 West Main Street and help give them a warm "Welcome to Monroe!"

Light Up Monroe – Sunday, December 1, 2019, 4:30 to 7 p.m.

Save the date for our annual Light Up Monroe event, 4:30 to 7 p.m. on December 1st at Travelers Park. Grab the kiddos, invite your friends and family, and head on down to Monroe the Sunday after Thanksgiving. You will find Santa and Mrs. Claus, carolers, hot cider and cocoa, reindeer food, candy canes, lit up cars with activities for kids, and more!



Sculpture Reveal – Saturday, December 7, 2019, 11 a.m.

Join the Community and me at 11 a.m. on December 7th for the sculpture reveal of 'Guardian of the Mountain Pass,' a collaborative piece designed and fabricated by artists Milo White and Jay Bowen. Come meet the artists and learn more about our exciting, new downtown feature.

The reveal will take place on-site at the SE Corner of Main and Lewis Street.

COUNCIL HAPPENINGS

2020 City Budget – Final Adoption

The 2020 City of Monroe Budget is scheduled for final adoption this Tuesday, November 12th at 7 p.m. at the City Council Regular Business Meeting. Public hearings were held on October 8, and October 15, 2019. If you were not able to attend either public hearing, but would still like to provide input on the budget, you can comment on November 12th during the Public Comments portion of the Council meeting.



2020 City Budget – Final Adoption (*continued*)

To review the budget, either in brief or its entirety, you may find it on the City's web page, www.monroewa.gov. Go to Departments/Finance/Budget & Financial Reports. If you have specific questions on the budget, feel free to contact Ms. Becky Hasart, Finance Director, at bhasart@monroewa.gov.

City's Comprehensive Plan Amendment Process

The City's Comprehensive Plan is an important document that contains the City's goals and policies that guide how growth and development occurs and is accommodated within the City. The Comprehensive Plan is subject to ongoing review and evaluation for consistency. With the exception of a few specific situations, the Washington State Growth Management Act (GMA) allows the Comprehensive Plan to be amended no-more-frequently than once a year. This provides citizens with an opportunity to submit proposed amendments to the City and to participate in the review process. Rather than adopting changes on a piecemeal basis, all proposed amendments must be considered together to establish the cumulative impacts of the proposals. Monroe reviews Comprehensive Plan amendments annually as a list of proposed amendments selected for review by the City Council, also known as "the docket."

The Comprehensive Plan amendment consists of two phases. The first phase consists of the City Council's selection of amendments to be included for review on the annual docket. The second phase involves the review of the proposed docket by City Staff and the Planning Commission. The City Council ultimately decides which amendments will be adopted, if any. The 2018-2019 Monroe Comprehensive Plan amendment docket will be considered for adoption by the City Council at their December 10, 2019, Regular Business Meeting. Members of the public are welcome to provide comment and input on the proposed Comprehensive Plan amendments at the December 10, 2019, City Council meeting.

Upcoming Business Meeting

The next Business Meeting will be held Tuesday, November 12, 2019, 7 p.m., at Monroe City Hall, Council Chambers. For more information, and to review agenda items, click [here](#).

Have a question for your Councilmembers? Contact them at councilmembers@monroewa.gov



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